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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Willowbrook choir students visit Nashville

More than 40 Willowbrook High School choir students recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for a musical tour. While in Nashville from April 11-14, the students' activities included: participating in a clinic at Vanderbilt University; taking part in a songwriting clinic with singer, songwriter and producer James Dean Hicks; recording three songs at RCA Studio B (where Elvis Presley recorded many of his hits); performing (under the direction of Willowbrook music department head and choir director Karyn Wolcott) in front of the Grand Ole Opry, at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and for a Mass at Christ the King Catholic Church; enjoying live performances at the Grand Ole Opry, the General Jackson Showboat and the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre; and taking line dancing lessons.



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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Conference action

The Willowbrook softball team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's games against Morton, Leyden and Addison Trail. The Warriors earned a 12-2 win at Morton on April 15. Two days later, Willowbrook beat Leyden 12-2 in Villa Park. The Warriors fell to 2-1 in conference play following Friday's 10-6 loss at Addison Trail. Willowbrook senior Isabella Dugo (No. 33) is pictured (above right) during last week's home game against Leyden. She went 2-for-2 with a pair of home runs and drove in three runs in the Warriors' five-inning victory over the Eagles. Willowbrook senior pitcher Karman Rowe (No. 21) is pictured (above middle) during Friday's contest at Addison Trail. Rowe went 3-for-4 at the plate with two doubles and one RBI against the Blazers. She allowed three earned runs during six innings in the circle in Friday's game, which was played in extremely windy conditions. Willowbrook split Saturday's non-conference doubleheader at Naperville Central. After suffering a 16-11 loss in the opener, the Warriors earned a 7-5 win in eight innings in the second game. Willowbrook's overall season record stood at 10-6 after the doubleheader. Freshman Aleena McNamara of the Warriors went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBIs during Saturday's second game. Addison Trail moved to 6-9 overall and 1-2 in conference action following Friday's win over Willowbrook. Junior Marisa Lloveras (above left) pitched a complete game for the Blazers on Friday. She allowed seven hits and three earned runs while recording eight strikeouts over seven innings. Lloveras hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the fourth inning. Addison Trail Junior Nina Matthews went 3-for-4 with a home run and four RBIs in Friday's game. She is pictured (far left) while heading for home after her two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors battle the Red Devils

Willowbrook's boys volleyball team faced Hinsdale Central in last week's match in Villa Park. The Warriors won the first game of the April 16 battle, and had a match point in the second game, but the visiting Red Devils rallied to earn a 29-31, 27-25, 25-22 victory. Willowbrook senior Andrew Ciesinski (No. 11 - above left) bashed 13 kills and made three blocks during the tight match. Senior

Carter Ferguson (No. 9 - above middle) provided seven kills and 14 assists for the Warriors, while senior Jason Hasler (No. 14 - above right) contributed six kills. Willowbrook's record dropped to 3-8 with the loss. The Warriors slipped to 3-9 following their 25-16, 25-13 loss at York on April 18.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Broncos vs. Vikings

The Montini Catholic softball team faced Saint Laurence in last week's game in Lombard. The visiting Vikings beat the Broncos 3-0 in the April 9 battle. Saint Laurence scored all three of its runs in the top of the third inning. Freshman Cedona Barrett (pictured above) pitched a complete game for the Broncos. Barrett allowed nine hits and two earned runs over seven innings. She issued two walks and recorded four strikeouts. At the plate, Barrett went 2-for-3 to account for two of her team's three hits. Another photo (below) shows Montini freshman catcher Aubry Raffin. One day after losing to Saint



Laurence, the Broncos suffered a 6-5 loss at Resurrection. Montini played three games in Saturday's event at Woodstock North High School. The Broncos won one of those games. Their overall season record stood at 6-11 following Saturday's play.



Senior Owen Riesen (No. 23) fires a pitch for the Warriors. Riesen pitched three and two-third scoreless innings in relief in the game. He allowed two hits and one walk while recording four strikeouts.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Under the lights...

Willowbrook's softball team faced Glenbard South in Friday evening's game in the Warriors' stadium in Villa Park. Willowbrook defeated the visiting Raiders 9-5 in the contest, which was played under the lights on the north side of the stadium field. The pitcher's mound was located near the field's 10-yard line, while home plate was along the northeast goal line. The setup featured a temporary outfield fence. Spectators watched the game from the stadium bleachers. One photo from Friday's action shows Willowbrook senior Karman Rowe (No. 21 - top left) firing a pitch. Another photo shows senior Lindsey Rugg (No. 40 - left), who blasted a two-run home run in the bottom of the second inning. Rugg's homer to left-center field broke a 2-2 tie and gave the Warriors a 4-2 lead. One more photo (above) shows Willowbrook junior Isabel Bates sliding safely into home plate on a sacrifice fly by Rugg in the bottom of the fifth inning. Bates, who hit a two-run double earlier in the fifth inning, went 1-for-2 and drove in two runs in Friday's game. She also scored two runs. Rugg went 1-for-1 with three runs batted in during Friday's victory. Freshman Aleena McNamara went 1-for-2 with two runs batted in. Rowe allowed four hits, five walks and two earned runs in seven innings in the circle. She recorded eight strikeouts in her winning performance against Glenbard South. Willowbrook returned to its home field for Saturday morning's battle against Argo. The Warriors beat Argo 7-5 to raise their overall season record to 7-4. Willowbrook began its West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's games against Morton, Leyden and Addison Trail. The Warriors will play a non-conference doubleheader at Naperville Central this Saturday.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

An up and down week for Montini

Montini Catholic's baseball team won two of four games last week. The Broncos began the week with a 15-0 victory at Saint Ignatius on April 8. One day later, Montini dropped a 2-1 decision to Saint Rita in Lombard. The Broncos broke a scoreless tie when they scored a run in the bottom of the sixth inning. Saint Rita then took the lead with a two-run home run in the top of the seventh inning. Montini senior Dominic Catalano (pictured) went 2-for-4 and scored his team's only run of the game. He scored on a bunt by senior Anthony Manganello. Senior Anthony Dinkel pitched the first four innings of the game for the Broncos. He didn't allow any hits. Dinkel recorded four strikeouts and walked two batters. Senior Cash Campbell pitched two scoreless innings and struck out five batters while giving up two hits and not issuing any walks. Montini's week continued with a 13-0 loss at Saint Laurence on April 11, followed by an 8-0 home win over Aurora Central Catholic on Saturday. The Broncos' overall season record stood at 8-5-1 following Saturday's victory.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors in action

Willowbrook's baseball team faced Hinsdale South in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The visiting Hornets edged the Warriors 5-4 in the April 10 contest. One photo shows Willowbrook senior Alden Baerenklau (No. 22 - above right) preparing to slide safely into home plate to give his team a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the third inning. Baerenklau advanced to third base on a fly ball by junior Vincent Ippolito. When the throw went past Hinsdale South's third baseman, Baerenklau raced down the third-base line and scored. Another photo (above left) from the game shows Willowbrook sophomore Alek Ramey preparing to touch home plate after bashing a two-run home run in the bottom of the sixth inning to cut Hinsdale South's lead to 5-4. Willowbrook's conference record dropped to 1-3 with the April 10 loss to the Hornets. Willowbrook's conference record fell to 1-4 after its 4-2 loss to Downers Grove South on April 11. The Mustangs completed a three-game series sweep of Willowbrook with that victory. The Warriors raised their overall season record to 7-5-2 with an 8-1 non-conference win at Hinsdale Central on Friday. Willowbrook's schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Addison Trail.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors take part in state math contest

The Willowbrook High School math team competed in the recent Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) State Math Contest, which took place at Illinois State University on April 6. Willowbrook's team placed 46th in the 62-team 3AA division at the state contest. Members of the team, pictured left to right, are: (front row) senior Annabelle Deany, senior Pyro Kuban, sophomore Eli Gibson and junior Isra Khattak; (back row) team adviser Carrie Skala, senior Lillian Vish, junior Tyler Zablika, senior Alex Perry, junior Ashar Hussain, junior Oscar Ramirez and team adviser Brit-ah Chelmecki.

Obituary—

ROBERT A. RIHA
4/10/44 to 6/13/2023

"Bob" passed away suddenly on June 13, 2023, at his place of residence in Diamond Springs, CA.



He was a native of Villa Park, and always considered Villa Park and the surrounding suburbs as "home."

Although his didn't live in Illinois in his adult life, he visited every chance he could. He attended local elementary schools, and almost graduated from Willowbrook High School.

The US Army called his name, and he enlisted in August 1962, with his good friend Art Valenzuela, another local boy. He served in Korea, then Vietnam, and made the Army a career for 23 years. During that time, he was stationed in various locations, including San Antonio TX, Fort Indian Town Gap PA, Fort Lewis WA, Colorado Springs CO and Sacramento CA. He also served 3 tours in West Germany.

In 1983 he married Peggy Ward of Diamond Springs CA and became stepfather to her children Tracy and Cathleen. He considered the girls his

daughters from day one and was the best dad they could have asked for. He taught them to drive, watched them marry and have children, and then felt old when they had grandchildren of their own. He considered the kids his grandchildren, even if there was no blood relationship.

Bob is survived by his wife, Peggy Riha, his brothers Ronald (Deborah), Donald (Debbie), his sister-in-law Karen, his nieces Marie, Corbie Jo, Kathy, and Samantha, and nephews Tim, Jim, Brian, Matthew and Mackenzie. There were also many grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by parents, George and Ethel Riha, and older brother George.

"Grampy" is survived by children Tracy Walker, Cathleen Walker, grandchildren Courtney Schwartz-Fossi and Mark Fossi, Bailey and Michael Durand, Darren Finegan and Ashlynn Loggins, and great grandchildren Abigail Durand, Hunter Fossi, and Waylen Durand.

Bob will always be remembered by his family. He was a fun and funny guy, and a good man.

A graveside service and interment will be held at Chapel Hill Gardens in Oakbrook Terrace, IL, on Saturday April 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

State Rep. Blair-Sherlock to host ABE Presentation April 24 at district office

State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock (D-Villa Park) will be offering the opportunity for residents of her district to attend a presentation on Illinois ABE "Achieving a Better Life Experience" accounts from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, at her district office, 28 S. Villa Ave., Villa Park.

ABE accounts give people with disabilities and their families greater financial independence while preserving benefits.

There also will be an ICash representative from the State Treasurer's office who can look up if you have any unclaimed money. If you would like to attend remotely, email JaxWest.D46@gmail.com.

Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

April 9

A complainant at a laundromat in the 600 block of W. North reported at 8:47 p.m. that a subject put feces in a washing machine they were using to wash clothes.

A victim in the 700 block of N. Bierman reported being battered by a suspect at 1:15 a.m.

A suspect at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 removed items displayed for sale from a shelf and attempted to leave with the items without paying.

A complainant at a fitness center in the 300 block of W. North reported being harassed by a subject.

April 8

A complainant in the 300 block of S. Monterey reported being threatened by a suspect at 7:44 p.m.

April 7

A complainant in the 100 block of

S. Myrtle reported at 2:09 a.m. they had been battered by a suspect.

A complainant at a gas station in the 200 block of E. Roosevelt reported at 5:42 a.m. that a victim was being battered by a suspect. The suspect, who left the gas station and then returned, reportedly also battered the complainant after police were called. The victim refused to go with the suspect, who grabbed the complainant's phone and threw it, damaging it. The suspect started to drive away and reportedly struck the complainant with the vehicle.

A complainant in the 500 block of W. Terrace reported at 3:52 p.m. he was battered by a suspect.

A complainant in the 200 block of N. Michigan reported at 9:48 p.m. that a suspect was not wanted on the complainant's property, but would not leave. After the suspect left the property, the complainant reported that he located property damage.

April 6

A suspect removed items displayed for sale from a shelf at a pharmacy in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles at 9:55 p.m. and left without paying.

April 5

A suspect removed items displayed for sale from a shelf at a pharmacy in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles at

8:14 a.m. and left without paying.

April 4

Nestor D. Cabrera, 30, of Villa Park, was charged with criminal damage to property in the 400 block of W. Division at 8:43 p.m.

Police said Briana K. Primer, 32, of Chicago, was arrested on a warrant out of Cook County and transported to the DuPage County Jail at 5:41 a.m.

A complainant came in to the Villa Park Police Department to report that a suspect has been stalking them for the past few days.

April 3

A complainant at a fitness center in the 300 block of W. North found a roll of electrical tape left on the door handle of their vehicle when they came out of the fitness center. The complainant was afraid someone may have placed a tracking device on the vehicle.

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Ardmore reported their cell phone was stolen. The phone was later recovered.

Identity theft, fraud, forgery

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported one incident of identity theft or fraud.

Montini Catholic students celebrate feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic students and faculty welcomed Father John Lindsay from Visitation Church in Elmhurst and Brother Chuck Gregor, FSC, from Christian Brothers Midwest District, who joined them for Mass on Monday, April 8, in celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation, as well as the Lasallian college preparatory high school's Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle's, Feast Day (April 7). St. John Baptist de La Salle, a French cleric, founded

the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the late 17th century. Named the patron saint of all teachers, St. John Baptist de La Salle dedicated his life to providing a well-rounded, Christian education to students of all faiths. Sophomore Michael May (above) of Villa Park provided his personal thoughts on what being a Lasallian student at Montini Catholic means to him. "As Lasallians, we have a calling, a calling to focus our attention and action on the needs surrounding us. St. John Baptist de La Salle had a clear focus and calling. My favorite quote from him is 'You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted to your care.' De La Salle was truly inspired by and called on by God to dedicate his life to education. His deep faith and belief in serving others as Jesus did guided him to create schools for the poor and marginalized, providing them access to quality education."

Court grants state's motion to detain pre-trial two Cook County men allegedly found in unrelated incidents to be in possession of loaded guns at Naperville recreation facility

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Naperville Chief of Police Jason Arres have announced that Judge Demetrios Panoushis granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for two men, in unrelated incidents, who were both allegedly found to be in possession of a loaded gun at a Naperville recreation facility.

Dijon Lane, 34, of Blue Island, appeared in First Appearance Court and is charged with one count of armed habitual criminal (Class X felony), one count of unlawful use of a weapon by a felon (Class 3 felony) and one count of misdemeanor unlawful possession of cannabis by a driver.

Tavell Jackson, 44, of Maywood, appeared in First Appearance Court and is charged with one count of armed habitual criminal (Class X felony), one count of unlawful use of a weapon by a felon (Class 3 felony) and one count of unlawful possession of a controlled substance (Class 4 felony).

On March 29 at approximately 6:30 p.m., Naperville police officers on patrol at Topgolf on Odyssey Court, observed an odor of cannabis coming from a vehicle. As officers surveilled the vehicle, they observed a man, later identified as Lane, enter the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Officers approached the vehicle, spoke with Lane and asked him to exit the vehicle. It is alleged that as Lane exited the vehicle, officers observed in plain view a gun, later determined to be a loaded Taurus 40 caliber PT740 with eight rounds in the magazine, tucked inside an opening near the gas pedal.

Lane was taken into custody at this time. On March 30 at approximately 10:05 p.m., officers again on routine patrol at Topgolf allegedly observed a handgun, later determined to be a loaded Taurus 9mm Millennium G2 with 12 rounds in the magazine, in plain view in the netting pocket on the back

of the front passenger seat of a vehicle. As officers surveilled the vehicle, they observed a man, later identified as Jackson, enter the rear passenger seat of the vehicle.

Officers pinned in the vehicle with their cars and ordered Jackson out of the vehicle. Jackson was taken into custody at this time. It is further alleged that when police took Jackson into custody, officers found 12.4 grams of crack cocaine in his jacket.

"Public safety remains the top priority of my office," Berlin said. "As convicted felons, both of these men have forfeited their right to legally possess a firearm. What I find particularly troubling are the allegations that both men brought a loaded firearm to a family friendly recreation facility. This type of behavior is inexcusable and will be fully prosecuted. I commend the Naperville Police Department for their continued commitment to public safety and for their proactive efforts in

these two cases that resulted in the removal of dangerous weapons from our streets."

"Our proactive policing efforts continue to result in illegally possessed guns being taken off our streets. This is a critical part of our obligation to safeguard our community, and we'll continue to engage in our proactive efforts throughout the city," Arres said. "I commend my staff for their commitment to making our community safer and DuPage County State's Attorney Bob Berlin and his office for their support in this matter."

Lane's next court appearance is scheduled April 22 for arraignment in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell. Jackson's next court appearance is scheduled April 29 for arraignment in front of Judge O'Connell.

Registration is open for Willowbrook's Little Warrior Preschool program

Registration for Willowbrook High School's 2024-25 Little Warrior Preschool is open. The preschool class, which is open for children ages 3 to 5, is taught by Willowbrook students in the Preschool I, Preschool II and Preschool Internship courses. Participants experience lessons in math, science, art, music, language arts and large/small muscle.

Little Warrior Preschool classes are held in the Early Childhood classroom at Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park.

Preschool takes place from 10 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The nine-week fall session will run from October to December. The nine-week spring session will run from March to May.

The cost is \$150 per child. A \$50 deposit, which will go toward the \$150 total, is due by May 1.

To enroll in the Little Warrior preschool program, complete the online form at: www.dupage88.net/LittleWarriorRegistration2024-25.

For more information, contact Willowbrook Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher and Little Warrior Preschool Coordinator Stephanie Ennis at sennis@dupage88.net or at 630-782-2882.

Boy Scout Pack 140 and Troop 140 to hold pancake breakfast on April 28

Boy Scout Pack 140 and Troop 140 (which represent Lombard and Villa Park) invite the community to attend a pancake breakfast fundraiser to support the members.

The breakfast will take place from 7 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 28, at St. Pius X Church's social center, 601 S. Westmore Ave., Lombard.

The cost is \$10 per person. Admission is free for children age 5 and younger.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook students view the eclipse

Nearly 1,100 Willowbrook High School students viewed the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. The students gathered on the school's north tennis courts during the afternoon and listened to music with an eclipse/sun/moon theme. Students had to submit a permission slip signed by a parent to participate. Those students were provided with appropriate glasses to safely watch the event. A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. The Chicagoland area was not in the path of totality for last week's eclipse. The path of totality passed through southern Illinois and central Indiana. The photo of the eclipse was taken by Willowbrook science teacher Ben Fenske.



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GIRLS SOCCER: MORTON 1, WILLOWBROOK 0 (OT)

Carisma Rosales comes through for Morton

Marquette recruit scores game-winner in extra period

By BOB NARANG

Shaw Local News Network correspondent

VILLA PARK – Morton senior forward Carisma Rosales' season has been stuck in neutral.

The Marquette recruit became a state sensation after a productive junior season, registering 23 goals and 12 assists last year.

This spring, Rosales has experienced several frustrating moments because of an early season ankle injury that forced her to miss several games and play several games in a limited capacity. She sat out Saturday's loss to Glenbard East because of a red card picked up in a loss to Plainfield North on April 10.

For Rosales, the trend continued for most of Monday's West Suburban Gold Division game against Willowbrook.

Rosales missed several close shots, almost had several assists on some eye-catching passes to teammates that weren't converted, jawed with a few Warriors players and fell to the turf several times after shots in the final third.

But Rosales, an all-state player with a booming right leg and nifty one-on-one moves that allow her to shake off defenders with ease, finally got a chance to add some sunshine to her season in the first overtime period Monday.

Just 57 seconds into the first overtime, Rosales lined up for a free kick at the 24-yard line. She steadied herself and launched a shot into the far upper-left corner for the winning goal in a 1-0 overtime victory at Willowbrook.

Rosales said her OT goal was her "first one" of the season.

"It was a pretty stressful game, just one miss after another," Rosales said. "It felt good [on the free kick]. Obviously, it was a tough game for both



Gary E. Duncan Sr. for Shaw Local News Network

Morton's Crystal Ozuna (right) battles Willowbrook's Emily Barth for possession of the ball April 15.

halves. We put in the effort and played hard."

Rosales said she was happy to put the Mustangs back in the win column and lead them to victory in their conference opener. Rosales had four good shots in the final 20 minutes of regulation but couldn't convert.

"It feels good to be back and to help the team," Rosales said. "We have a lot of games ahead of us, so we have a lot more effort to put in."

The Mustangs (5-6, 1-0) came into Monday's game with four straight defeats, all in the Plainfield Classic.

The Warriors (1-7-2, 0-2) also were stuck in a bad spot, finishing with two ties and five losses in their previous seven games.

Morton, which won both games against Willowbrook last season by a combined score of 9-2, played with better effort in the second half to earn the road victory.

"We warned them before the game that the longer we let Willowbrook stay in it that it can go either way," Morton coach Jim Bageanis said. "We had some better chances in the second half. We were really stagnant in the

first half."

Willowbrook junior goalie Payton Brose, a captain, ended with three saves. The Warriors' backline played solid throughout the first 80 minutes, but Rosales' powerful leg was the difference.

"We held them pretty well and it was a great game for us," Brose said. "I feel our defense worked really well for us against this team. They had speed up top and I think Halie Ahrens played well against [Rosales]. "There was a lot of traffic on that goal. It was an unlucky goal for us."

GIRLS SOCCER NOTES

Downers South celebrates Hernandez's 100th win in sweet fashion

By CHRIS WALKER

Shaw Local News Network correspondent

Cool tricks can leave defenders in the dust.

Freshly baked goods and a surprise party can leave a coach blessed and searching for words of thanks.

Congratulations to the Downers

Grove South girls soccer team for stunning coach Chris Hernandez with a surprise party at the school after the Mustangs went on the road to beat Proviso East 8-0 on April 2.

Isa Okuku, Grace Stapleton, Marifer Duran, Ashley Molinari, Mallory Crowley and Jordan Reynolds were among the Mustangs who scored in Hernan-

dez's 100th win at Downers Grove South.

"I am very fortunate to be a part of a great soccer and coaches community," Hernandez said. "They surprised me. They swiped out a ball from the game and had all the girls sign it and then when we came back to the building, I walked in and they had banners and cupcakes. It was all very humbling."

Downers Grove South (2-3) hasn't scored in its three losses this season, but the Mustangs have challenged themselves with two of those losses coming against two of the state's best squads in Naperville North (5-1-2) and York (7-0).

See SOCCER NOTES, page 18